

South Dakota MILK PRODUCTION

News Release

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JANUARY - MARCH 2000 MILK PRODUCTION UP

SIOUX FALLS, April 17, 2000 -- The January - March 2000 quarterly milk production for South Dakota totaled 399 million pounds, 9 percent above last year, according to USDA's South Dakota Ag Statistics Service. This is up 14 million pounds from last quarter's production and is the largest January - March production since 1992's 410 million pounds produced.

The average number of milk cows during the quarter, at 102,000, remained unchanged from the previous nine quarters. This is the lowest number for South Dakota's dairy herd since the high in 1934, but the stable level over the last two years has ended the gradual decline seen over the last 60 years.

During 1999, the number of milk cows averaged 102,000, the same as the previous year. This remains the lowest annual average since the records began in 1930. Milk produced per cow averaged 14,775 pounds up from 14,069 pounds in 1998. Total milk produced, at 1,507 million pounds, was up 5 percent from 1998.

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